**Interactionism**

Interactionism focuses on how small groups influence our behaviour and shape society. Interactionist sociologists usually focus their study on small groups and how they influence individual behaviour and shape society. They may study groups such as gangs, staffs, patients and visitors in hospitals or social interaction in classrooms. The dynamics are studies in groups like this.

Interactionist theorists believe that we are influenced by the socialisation process and that we are not programmed by the socialisation process. By having the power to choose how we behave they will create their own roles. They believe that our behaviour is based on how we interpret situations, how we see ourselves and other people and how other people perceive us. Social theorists’ main aim to understand how we interpret different situation and how people behave in small groups. Theorists of this theory do not have interest in the social structures in the society.

**Criticisms of interactionism**

The interactionist approach does not address social order and social change. The theorists of this approach do not adequately explain why societies change over time. For example, they don’t pay attention to issues of power in our society.

Social action theorists only focus on the behaviour of small groups of people rather than focusing on the whole society. Also, the theorists do not describe what social factors influence these behaviours in these small groups.

The interactionist perspective concentrates too much on small scale and trivial aspect of social life. By doing this the approach ignores the bigger picture the society is faced with.

The approach fails to explain how social relationships has an effect on people’s behaviour as the theory states that groups can influence our behaviour in the society.